Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A hologram retention method comprising the steps of:~~

~~reproducing information recorded as a hologram in a predetermined position~~

~~of an optical recording medium; and~~ The method according to claim 21, wherein

~~subsequently re-recording and retaining the reproduced information~~ includes re-

recording the reproduced information in the same position as the predetermined position as a

hologram.

2. (Original) A hologram retention method according to claim 1, wherein when an intensity of a reconstructed beam has fallen to a predetermined value or less, the reproduced information is re-recorded and retained.

3. (Original) A hologram retention method according to claim 1, wherein when the number of times of reproduction has exceeded a predetermined value, the reproduced information is re-recorded and retained.

4. (Original) A hologram retention method according to claim 1, wherein when re-recording the reproduced information, position information representing a position in which information has been recorded is also recorded.

5. (Original) A hologram retention method according to claim 1, wherein when re-recording the reproduced information in the same position as the predetermined position as a hologram, the reproduced information is re-recorded and retained so as to cause an intensity of a reconstructed beam to have a value that can be detected.

6.   (Original) A hologram retention method according to claim 1, wherein when re-recording the reproduced information in the same position as the predetermined position as a hologram, the reproduced information is re-recorded and retained so as to cause a polarization state of a reconstructed beam obtained from the re-recorded hologram to be different from a polarization state of a reconstructed beam obtained from the hologram preceding the re-recording.

7.   (Original) A hologram retention method according to claim 1, wherein the optical recording medium comprises a photorefractive material, a photochromic material or a polarization sensitive material.

8.   (Original) A hologram retention method according to claim 1, wherein the optical recording medium comprises polyester having an azobenzene frame in its side chain.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein subsequently re-recording and retaining the reproduced information includes~~A hologram retention method comprising the steps of:~~

~~reproducing information recorded as a hologram in a predetermined position of an optical recording medium; and~~

~~subsequently~~ re-recording and retaining the reproduced information in a position different from the predetermined position as a hologram.

10.   (Original) A hologram retention method according to claim 9, wherein when an intensity of a reconstructed beam has fallen to a predetermined value or less, the reproduced information is re-recorded and retained.

11.   (Original) A hologram retention method according to claim 9, wherein when the number of times of reproduction has exceeded a predetermined value, the reproduced information is re-recorded and retained.

12.   (Original) A hologram retention method according to claim 9, wherein when re-recording the reproduced information, position information representing a position in which information has been recorded is also recorded.

13.   (Original) A hologram retention method according to claim 9, wherein the optical recording medium comprises a photorefractive material, a photochromic material or a polarization sensitive material.

14.   (Original) A hologram retention method according to claim 9, wherein the optical recording medium comprises polyester having an azobenzene frame in its side chain.

15.   (Currently Amended) A hologram retention methodThe method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

dividing information of a file unit in a signal beam into a plurality of blocks, and multiplexing the information in an optical recording medium as holograms of a plurality of pages every block;

reproducing the information of the file unit; and

subsequently re-recording and retaining the reproduced file so as to re-divide the reproduced file into a smaller number of blocks.

16.   (Original) A hologram retention method according to claim 15, comprising the steps of:

applying a signal beam and a reference beam simultaneously to the optical recording medium while changing an angle formed by the signal beam and the reference beam, and thereby changing a recording angle; and

dividing information of a file unit in the signal beam into a plurality of blocks, and multiplexing the information in the optical recording medium as holograms of a plurality of pages every block.

17.   (Original) A hologram retention method according to claim 15, comprising the steps of:

making an angle formed by the signal beam and the reference beam constant, applying a signal beam and a reference beam simultaneously to the optical recording medium while relatively moving at least one of the signal beam and the reference beam, and the optical recording medium, and thereby changing a recording position; and

dividing information of a file unit in the signal beam into a plurality of blocks, and multiplexing the information in the optical recording medium as holograms of a plurality of pages every block.

18.   (Original) A hologram retention method according to claim 15, comprising the steps of:

making an angle formed by the signal beam and the reference beam constant, applying a signal beam and a reference beam simultaneously to the optical recording medium while changing a wavelength of the reference beam and the signal beam; and

dividing information of a file unit in the signal beam into a plurality of blocks, and multiplexing the information in the optical recording medium as holograms of a plurality of pages every block.

19.   (Original) A hologram retention method according to claim 15, comprising the steps of:

making an angle formed by the signal beam and the reference beam constant, applying a signal beam and a reference beam simultaneously to the optical recording medium while changing a phase of the reference beam; and

dividing information of a file unit in the signal beam into a plurality of blocks, and multiplexing the information in the optical recording medium as holograms of a plurality of pages every block.

20.   (Original) A hologram retention method according to claim 15, wherein when re-recording a reproduced file, position information representing a position in which the file has been re-recorded is also recorded.

21.   (New) A hologram retention method comprising the steps of:

reproducing information recorded as a hologram in a predetermined position of an optical recording medium; and

subsequently re-recording and retaining the reproduced information.